

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02859 101107Z

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2859

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: LEGAL STATUS OF ISLANDS IN EASTERN AEGEAN

REF: ATHENS 2693 (NOTAL)

1. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FOR US TO HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE DEPARTMENT'S ANALYSIS OF THE PERTINENT TREATY PROVISIONS CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF A MILITARY CHARACTER WITH RESPECT TO THE DODECANESE AND THE OTHER EASTERN AEGEAN ISLANDS.

2. WE HAVE CHECKED PARLIAMENTARY RECORDS AND HAVE FOUND THAT THEY SUBSTANTIALLY VERIFY TZOUNIS' DESCRIPTION IN REFTEL OF THE STATEMENT BY THE THEN FOREIGN MINISTER, TEVFIK RUSTU ARAS. (TRANSLATION OF ARAS' REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT ON JULY 31, 1936 REGARDING THE ISLANDS OFF THE MOUTH OF THE DARDANELLES: "WE ARE ALSO PLEASED THAT THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING LIMNOS AND
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02859 101107Z

SOMOTHRACE ISLANDS, WHICH WERE DEMILITARIZED WITH THE 1924

LAUSANNE TREATY, IS NOW BEING VOIDED WITH THE MONTREUX
CONVENTION...WHATEVER WE CONSIDER IN OUR FAVOR, WE
WILL CONSIDER THE SAME FOR OUR FRIENDS...")

3. WE WERE, OF COURSE, INTERESTED IN THE ASSURANCES GIVEN
AMBASSADOR KUBISCH REGARDING LACK OF GREEK INTENTIONS RE ATTACK ON
TURK MAINLAND (PARA 5 REFTEL). HOWEVER, SUCH AN ATTACK IS NOT A
MATTER OF PRESENT CONCERN TO THE TUKS. BUT STRENGTHENING THE
MILITARY POTENTIAL OF THESE STATIONARY AIRCRAFT CARRIERS SO FAR
FROM ATHENS AND SO CLOSE TO THE TURKISH SHORE FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE
ACTION IS REGARDED HERE AS A PROVOCATIVE ACT IN ITS OWN RIGHT.
ASSURANCES THAT ATTACKS WILL NOT COME ON TURKISH MAINLAND
WILL NOT LOWER TURKISH TEMPERS SO LONG AS THIS ISLAND ACTIVITY
CONTINUES.
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